



National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

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Yosemite News Release

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For Immediate Release

Yosemite National Park Announces Opening of Public Scoping for Tuolumne Planning Effort

Yosemite National Park is announcing public scoping in preparation of the **Tuolumne Wild and Scenic River Comprehensive Management Plan/Tuolumne Meadows Plan and Environmental Impact Statement**.

The National Park Service will prepare two plans for the Tuolumne area in a consolidated document: a Comprehensive Management Plan for the Tuolumne Wild and Scenic River ("Tuolumne River Plan"), and an implementation plan for Tuolumne Meadows ("Tuolumne Meadows Plan"). These will be accompanied by an environmental impact statement (EIS) that analyzes the environmental effects of a range of management approaches.

Two factors contribute to the timing of this planning effort. First, the National Park Service is mandated by Congress to prepare a management plan for the Tuolumne Wild and Scenic River corridor. Second, there are facilities issues that need immediate attention in the Tuolumne Meadows area. Before moving forward to repair, upgrade, or remove infrastructure, the National Park Service is looking to the public to clearly define the management goals for both the Tuolumne River and Tuolumne Meadows areas.

The **Tuolumne River Plan** will provide broad management guidance and establish the overall goals and vision for the river corridor. Its policy directives will guide future management and amend the Yosemite National Park *General Management Plan* for the Tuolumne River area. The 54 miles of the Tuolumne River in Yosemite National Park was federally designated as a Wild and Scenic River in 1984.

The **Tuolumne Meadows Plan** is an implementation-level plan. It will focus on the types and levels of visitor services and activities offered in the vicinity of Tuolumne Meadows. It will also delineate which areas should be targeted for restoration.

Public ideas and concerns are sought to help identify the range of issues that should be addressed in this planning effort. Involvement of the public is needed to insure that future actions are consistent with the National Park Service mission, enabling legislation, and other relevant laws and policies.

The public scoping process for this project will be open until 60 days from the publication of a Notice of Intent (NOI) to prepare an EIS, as listed in the *Federal Register*. The NOI is expected to be published soon, and a link will be posted on the park's website at www.nps.gov/yose/planning. Scoping is an opportunity early in a planning process for the public, gateway communities, partner organizations, and other local, state and federal agencies to suggest issues to be considered in the proposed draft EIS.

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A series of public meetings will take place in July and August. For a schedule of dates and locations, visit the park's website at www.nps.gov/yose/planning.

Written scoping comments should be postmarked no later than **60 days after publication of the NOI in the *Federal Register***. Comments can be submitted at public meetings, by mail, fax, and email. A draft document should be available for public review in summer 2007. To request a hard copy or CD ROM version of the Draft EIS and to submit written comments:

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